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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING THE CALIFORNIA  
EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ENRIQUE CARATACHEA VALENCIA, 26, and JOSE LUIS CARATACHEA VALENCIA, 32, both from Fresno, were sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver Wanger to 33 months and 27 months, respectively, for defrauding the State of California, Employment Development Department (EDD), of over \$600,000 in unemployment insurance benefits. The defendants pled guilty to eight counts of mail fraud on August 28, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations and the State of California, Employment Development Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who prosecuted the case, the scheme to defraud EDD covered the period of January 2002 to September 2005 and involved the use of over 50 individual identities. The individuals had no idea that their identities were being used to file fraudulent unemployment insurance claims with the EDD. As part of their sentence, the defendants were ordered by Judge Wanger to pay restitution to the EDD in the amount of \$647,935.

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